

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-02 H-02 SS-15 PRS-01

PA-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 /050 W

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R 151019Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3658

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CASC, ET, US (HANNA, RICHARD)

SUBJECT: STATUS OF CASE

1. AFTER TWO ABORTED ATTEMPTS AT CONSULAR ACCESS, THE CONSUL WAS FINALLY PERMITTED TO SEE HANNA, WED. MAR. 12. (HE HAD BEEN ALLOWED OTHER VISITORS PREVIOUSLY, BUT CONSUL'S EFFORTS WERE REBUFFED BY OFFICIALS WHO HAD APPARENTLY RECEIVED WORD THAT HE WAS TO SEE NO ONE FROM THE EMBASSY.)

2. HANNA WAS IN A SURPRISINGLY CHEERFUL MOOD AND FEELS CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL BE RELEASED SOON. HE IS STILL BEING HELD AS A MATERIAL WITNESS IN THE TRIAL OF TWO ETHIOPIAN FRIENDS WHO ARE ACCUSED OF "SMUGGLING MONEY". THE COLONEL IN CHARGE OF HANNA MADE A POINT OF MENTIONING THAT HE SHOWED HANNA THE SECTION OF ETHIOPIAN LAW WHICH STATES THAT HE CAN BE DETAINED IN PRISION AS A MATERIAL WITNESS IN A COURT CASE. HANNA'S ATTORNEY, WHO IS ALSO REPRESENTING THE ETHIOPIANS, CLAIMS THAT HE IS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH SECTION OF THE LAW.

3. THE TWO ETHIOPIANS ARE BEING TRIED IN A MILITARY COURT. HANNA APPEARED BOTH THUS. MAR. 13 AND FRIDAY MAR. 14 BUT WAS NOT CALLED AS WITNESS UNTIL FRIDAY. MUCH TO THE DISMAY OF THE ATTORNEY, HANNA ADMITTED SENDING MONEY OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON BEHALF OF THE ACCUSED AND OPENING BANK ACCOUNTS FOR THEM IN THE U.S.

4. THE NEXT COURT DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR MON. MAR. 24 TO ALLOW THE ATTORNEY TO PREPARE HIS DEFENSE. HE BELIEVES HANNA'S STATEMENT HAS

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SEALED THE DOOM OF THE ETHIOPIANS AND THAT THEY WILL PROBABLY BE

FOUND GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO 3-10 YEARS. HOWEVER, HE PLANS TO CROSS EXAMINE HANNA AND DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS APPRISED OF HIS RIGHTS. APPARENTLY UNDER ETHIOPIAN LAW, HE COULD HAVE REFUSED TO TESTIFY IF HE FELT HIS STATEMENTS WOULD INCIRMINATE HIMSELF (SIMILAR TO U.S. 5TH AMMENDMENT).

5. CASE SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN MAXIMUM OF 1 1/2 WEEKS IF, AS EXPECTED, PRESENTATION OF DEFENSE WILL TAKE NO MORE THAN ONE OR TWO DAYS. WE UNDERSTAND HANNA WILL LIKELY BE DEPORTED AS SOON AS HE IS RELEASED.

WYMAN

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